

Reflections about the 32nd Degree

We live in an extremely distressed world. The media gives more importance to negative aspects and stimulates violence. Scandals related to the corruption of politicians and the non-religious attitude of those responsible for the spiritual formation of many people have become more and more notorious.

The man lives a great existential crisis as he looks around and feels lonely. He lives in a world poor of examples and deficient of compassion. His faith is put to the test. In my point of view, all such threats to his balance bring him to one of the major opportunities that the Great Architect of the Universe can award, which is, they give him the true meaning of life and make it possible for him to encounter his own self, and therefore, his Creator.

We now have access to very advanced technology. At a glance, we can communicate with the entire world through the internet. Our youth is capable of operating confusing equipment like masters in a few minutes. However, meanwhile we are “unlearning” to talk, to verbalize our emotions, to demonstrate love to our fellows, to hug a dear friend or someone who simply needs a hug.

Once Socrates said: “Know thyself!” In a courageous process of auto-recognition, the man finds out that he is mortal. He perceives that all material power is relative and transitory. He dives in his existential emptiness and he perceives his mortality. To accept that principle is the safe path to balancing his forces of energy and ideas. By living each day on each day, he is whole and total in all moments and he is always attentive to his own breathing. When in balance, the man responds faster and more fairly to the demands of the environment. When in balance, he smiles more, loves better, and produces more naturally. When in balance, the man reflects his example, inspires his neighbors and reaches a constant state of happiness.

I see our world living a “bipolar” moment and for that reason it induces our emotions to become oscillating and our behavior compulsive. That is why societies aiming at reeducating the unbalanced modern man have been created such as: alcoholics anonymous, gamblers anonymous, compulsive eaters anonymous, and so on.

Let us hear other kinds of music. Let us try other types of food. Let us travel through other roads. Let us read other books. Let us listen with our hearts the messages that come to us. Radicalism is one of the blockages to equilibrium - fanaticism, too; hypocrisy and ignorance, too! Oops! Look at Freemasonry here again! Through its philosophy Freemasonry points out how its members are capable of achieving that state of balance.

Let us want to comprehend more than to memorize our rituals. Let us get more involved in the Masonic practice than simply its theory. Let us prepare more for fraternal actions than for disputes. Let us do more silent charity than just media hype. Let us dry more tears and stimulate more smiles. Let us use not only our reason but allow our emotion to come out - crying is a form of expression! Crying could avoid a future heart attack!

Dear brothers, let us live the legacy of love that the Great Architect of the Universe has bestowed us.

Our motto for 2011 will be love now, fraternity now, respect now, tolerance now, and everything else that will promote balance within us and help balance the planet.

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